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16 December 1963

MEMORANDUM FOR: The Director of Central Intelligence

SUBJECT: [REDACTED]

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25X1A 1. This memorandum is for information only and serves to call your at-

25X1A 2. [REDACTED] 25X1A [REDACTED] formerly worked for CIA in OCI and as the Resident [REDACTED] He is at present one of the editors of the LIFE Nature Library (Time, Inc.).

3. This book is a popularly written account of the wartime atomic bomb project, written from the scientists' point of view. It will not have much appeal for the sophisticated reader. [REDACTED] contains a short 25X1A technical discussion on the constitution of matter and the history of nuclear physics, and then reviews the scientific and political events leading up to the enlistment of President Roosevelt's interest in atomic development. It then continues on through the development of the bomb, culminating in the dropping of the bombs on Japan.

25X1A 4. The Assistant Director/Scientific Intelligence (DD/S&T) has had an analysis made of [REDACTED] which characterizes the book as "thin and stereotyped." Many of the bitter arguments which arose in connection with the development of the atomic bomb are never referred to. General Groves is depicted as a driving military type, but as the author felt that the General was still controversial, he fails to discuss any of the management aspects of the Manhattan District. Its foreign intelligence efforts are covered in one sentence, and [REDACTED] does not touch on any of the Soviet efforts in the field of atomic espionage.

5. While Chapter 2, which describes the background of nuclear matter, is scientifically inadequate because of the author's lack of technical training, OSI considers it pedagogically sound, and it is their general conclusion that this book does accomplish its objective of making the whole subject understandable to the lay reader.

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[REDACTED]
Walter Pforzheimer
Curator
Historical Intelligence Collection
CIA Library

Attachment

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